



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/623,268	08/30/2000	Frank Filser	00-497	1826

7590 02/23/2006

Gregory P Lapointe
Bachman & LaPointe
Suite 1201
900 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

EXAMINER

HOFFMANN, JOHN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1731	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/623,268	Applicant(s) FILSER ET AL.	
	Examiner John Hoffmann	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/24/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-34 and 41-43 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-34 and 41-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/24/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Examiner could find no support for the new claims.

From MPEP 2163.04:

Purdue Pharma L.P. v. Faulding Inc., 230 F.3d 1320, 1328, 56 USPQ2d 1481, 1487 (Fed. Cir. 2000) ("[T]he specification does not clearly disclose to the skilled artisan that the inventors... considered the... ratio to be part of their invention.... There is therefore no force to Purdue's argument that the written description requirement was satisfied because the disclosure revealed a broad invention from which the [later-filed] claims carved out a patentable portion"). Compare Union Oil of Cal. v. Atlantic Richfield Co., 208 F.3d 989, 997, 54 USPQ2d 1227, 1232-33 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (Description in terms of ranges of chemical properties which work in combination with ranges of other chemical properties to produce an automotive gasoline that reduces emissions was found to provide an adequate written description even though the exact chemical components of each combination were not disclosed and the specification did not disclose any distinct embodiments corresponding to any claim at issue. "[T]he Patent Act and this court's case law require only sufficient description to show one of skill in the . . . art that the inventor possessed the claimed invention at the time of filing.").

There is nothing that indicates that applicant considered calculating the enlargement factor to the 4th decimal point to be part of the invention. Rather it appears that applicant is merely trying to carve out a patentable portion from a broad disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-34 and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlwend 6106747 in view of Applicant's Exhibit A: the John Halloran letter dated 6 April 2004 (supplied to the PTO in the response of 5/3/2004).

The invention is disclosed at col 3, lines 24-42 and col. 4, lines 51-54 of Wohlwend. See how the Wohlwend was applied in the previous rejections. The bottom of the first page of Exhibit A indicates it is well known to use the starting density and sintered/final density. By looking to applicant's specification – for example [0036] – the “relative density” is actually some sort of true density – or merely relative to some number. Examiner notes that specific gravity can be considered a “relative density” since it is a comparison to the density of water. Thus a material with a specific gravity of 3.4 would have a density of 3.5 g/cc. And, as a relative density $(3.5 \text{ g/cc}) / (1.0 \text{ g/cc}) = 3.5$. What Examiner is trying to demonstrate that since applicant sets forth a “relative density” as 3.089 g/cc in [0036], the density is not “relative” to another density, because there would be no units. At best it is “relative” to some dimensionless number. And thus one can consider that the densities that John Halloran refers to are “relative densities” because they are relative to the dimensionless number “1” or else they are relative to the density of water.

Halloran explains that it is well known to compute the enlargement factor from the two densities. It would have been obvious to compute the enlargement factor from the densities when using the Wohlwend method, because Wohlwend does not teach how to determine it. Moreover, since Wohlwend teaches to use the factor and since Halloran teaches it well known, it seems more than likely that one of ordinary skill would immediately realize that Wohlwend's method encompasses determining the factor by any convention method – such as the method discussed by Halloran.

Art Unit: 1731

From MPEP 2144.01 Implicit Disclosure:

"[I]n considering the disclosure of a reference, it is proper to take into account not only specific teachings of the reference but also the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw therefrom." *In re Preda*, 401 F.2d 825, 826, 159 USPQ 342, 344 (CCPA 1968).

See also, *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1264-65, 23 USPQ2d 1780, 1782-83 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Sovish*, 769 F.2d 738, 743, 226 USPQ 771, 774 (Fed. Cir 1985).

As to the particular relationship/equation that Applicant claims, it is deemed that it is the only possible computation that Halloran could have been referring to – assuming isotropic shrinkage.

For example, assuming a cube, the initial size would be $Y \times Y \times Y = \text{volume}$. It's mass would be M . After firing, the size would be $Z \times Z \times Z = \text{final volume}$. The mass would remain the same. It's initial Density would be $ID = M/Y^3$ and the final density $FD = M/Z^3$

But since M stays the same $M = ID \times Y^3$ and $M = FD \times Z^3$

Then rearranging the terms $ID/FD = Z^3/Y^3$

And since the enlargement factor is just the same thing as linear shrinkage, $Z_f = Y$, one would necessarily arrive at the same result that applicant obtained.

The same analysis would result in whatever geometry was used.

Art Unit: 1731

As to claims 41-43, it would have been obvious to calculate the term to the degree of precision desired. Examiner takes Official notice that most calculators calculate to at least 8 digits. Thus even if one didn't intend to use 4 digits of precision, the routine use of a calculator to determine the factor, would inherently result in the generation of a number with at least 4 decimal points.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1 December 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The arguments are moot in light of the new grounds of rejection.

As to the commercial success, Applicant has not explained how the evidence makes a showing of commercial success that constitutes non-obviousness.

From MPEP 716.02(b) [R-2] Burden on Applicant:

II. >< APPLICANTS HAVE BURDEN OF EXPLAINING PROFFERED DATA

"[A]ppellants have the burden of explaining the data in any declaration they proffer as evidence of non-obviousness." Ex parte Ishizaka, 24 USPQ2d 1621, 1624 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1992).

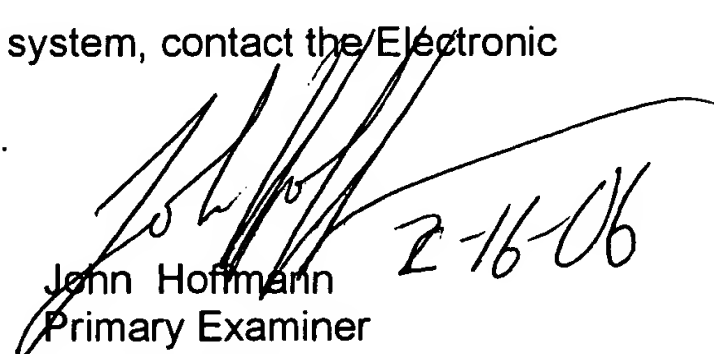
Applicant has not even attempted to show a nexus between the invention and the commercial success. The evidence does not show the product was even created by the claimed method.

Art Unit: 1731

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hoffmann whose telephone number is (571) 272 1191. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00- 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

jmh